

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 ACDA-05

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O R 170846Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE NIACT IMMEDIATE 7280

USMISSION GENEVA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2154

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY AND AMBASSADOR STOESSEL

USMISSION GENEVA PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY AND AMBASSADOR STOESSEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR, CY

SUBJECT: TASS STATEMENT ON CYPRUS

1. TASS STATEMENT ON CYPRUS (PRAVDA FEB 17) IS EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS AND LOOKS PALLID IN COMPARISON WITH THE SOVIET STATEMENTS OF LAST SUMMER. UNLIKE THE AUGUST 22 JULY 29 AND JULY 20 STATEMENTS, THIS IS NOT A GOVERNMENT STATEMENT, AND UNLIKE THE EARLIER STATEMENTS IT IS NOT CARRIED ON PAGE ONE OF PRAVDA.

2. THE TASS STATEMENT IS CAREFUL NOT TO PUT TOO MUCH SPECIFIC BLAME ON ANYONE. "CERTAIN (UNSPECIFIED) NATO CIRCLES" ARE BLAMED FOR TRYING TO DISRUPT THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS AND BRING
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ABOUT A "PARTITION" (RAZDEL) OF THE ISLAND. LEADERSHIP"

OF THE TURKISH COMMUNITY IS OF COURSE CONDEMNED FOR ITS UNILATERAL STEPS TO SET UP A "SEPARATE STATE STRUCTURE." BUT THE STATEMENT HOLDS ITS FIRE ON TURKEY, SAYING ONLY THAT THE CYPRUS SITUATION HAD BEEN THE RESULT OF "ARMED INTERFERENCE FROM OUTSIDE." WITH WILSON IN MOSCOW, IT DOES NOT CRITICIZE THE UK; IN FACT, IT CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF "FOREIGN TROOPS" BUT (UNLIKE THE EARLIER STATEMENTS) NOT "ALL FOREIGN TROOPS." THE STATEMENT DOES NOT MENTION THE U.S.

3. THE TASS STATEMENT DOES NOT CARRY AN IMPLIED THREAT OF STRONG SOVIET ACTION. IT SAYS ONLY THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS REPEATEDLY UNDERLINED THAT "EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM IN THE NARROW CIRCLE OF NATO MEMBER-STATES BY MEANS OF ARMED FORCE AND POLITICAL DICTAT ARE FRAUGHT WITH SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS." THE SOVIET REGIME IS REFERRED TO IN ONLY ONE OTHER PLACE -- A PASSAGE WHICH SAYS THAT "IN LEADING (RUKOVODYASHCHIE) CIRCLES OF THE SOVIET UNION" THE CYPRUS SITUATION CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN RESOLUTIONS ON CYPRUS.

4. THE STATEMENT DOES GIVE SOME CLUES ABOUT THE SOVIET APPROACH IN REACTION TO THE TURKISH CYPRIOT ACTION. IT REVIVES THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR A "BROAD INTERNATIONAL FORUM" AND THE CONVENING OF A "REPRESENTATIVE" UN CONFERENCE. THE STATEMENT IDENTIFIES THE "GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS" (BUT NOT GREECE) AS A SUPPORTER OF THE SOVIET INITIATIVE.

5. IT IS ALSO INTERESTING THAT THE TASS STATEMENT MAKES LITTLE EFFORT TO PREJUDGE--EXCEPT IN THE STANDARD TERMS OF INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY--THE FUTURE POLITICAL ARRANGEMENT OF CYPRUS. IT SPEAKS OF THE "LAWFULLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS" BUT DOES NOT ONCE MENTION MAKARIOS (EARLIER STATEMENTS, THOUGH NOT THE AUGUST 22 ONE, HAD).

6. IN SUM, THIS STATEMENT AMOUNTS TO A HOLDING ACTION, PUTTING THE SOVIETS ON RECORD BUT FORECLOSING NO OPTIONS, MAKING NO THREATS, AND SUGGESTING NO NEW APPROACHES.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW02154
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750057-0097
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750237/aaaabhgc.tel
Line Count: 105
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <08 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TASS STATEMENT ON CYPRUS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, CY
To: STATE GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006